

Coins

Numismatic convention: Big deal in Decatur

By Roger Boye

SOME 140 TABLES will be lined with numismatic treasures on sale at Illinois' top annual coin convention next weekend in Decatur.

Dealers from throughout the country will be on hand at the Illinois State Numismatic Association convention to sell United States and foreign coins and paper money, medals, and tokens. In addition, coin exhibits and an educational forum will take place in the meeting rooms of the Decatur Holiday Inn on U. S. Hwy. 36.

Dealers will sell coins from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. next Sunday, during the association's 16th annual convention.

IF BANKS would try harder to distribute them, \$2 bills would circulate, writes Evelyn

Kasik of Berwyn about an August coin column.

"It they were circulated and made available, they would go over big," she says.

Only one Chicago bank executive contacted recently said the bank's tellers regularly give out \$2 bills, whether the customer asks for them or not. Other bank executives said \$2 bills are available, but the customer must ask for them.

As one executive put it: "We find it aggravates a customer to give him something he doesn't want."

But the Federal Reserve, which distributes the \$2 bills to member banks, agrees with reader Kasik. It would like to see banks take a more aggressive attitude in circulating the bill.

I AM willing to let Stanley Sharp of Rantoul have the final word on postmarked numismatic items.

He writes to say he placed a proof set in an envelope, letting the flap of the proof-set container hang out of a slot in the envelope. He then attached a \$2 bill and Bicentennial stamps to the envelope.

He had the stamps, bill, and flap postmarked on April 13 [the day the \$2 bill was put into circulation], and postmarked a second time on July 4.

"I feel I have a first," Sharp says.

THE BANK OF Mexico put into circulation this summer a seven-sided 10-pesos coin made of copper and nickel [10 Mexican pesos is about 80 U. S. cents].

It is the only nonround coin currently made in Mexico and is being produced in relatively large quantities. Some dealers who sell the coin advertise in the weekly coin periodicals.